#### **United States Department of Agriculture**



#### VIA Electronic Mail

COLORADO BULLETIN: 300-06-04

**SUBJECT:** LTP – Conservation Reserve Program Planning **DATE: December 20, 2005** 

and Reporting Requirements

TO: Area Conservationists FILE CODE: 300-8

**District Conservationists** 

Field office staffs

<u>PURPOSE:</u> Transmit guidance for Conservation Reserve Program technical Assistance and reporting requirements.

**EXPIRATION DATE:** September 30, 2006

This bulletin transmits guidance for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) technical assistance and reporting requirements necessary to meet National Bulletin 300-11 dated November 28, 2005.

Effective immediately, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field offices will resume providing CRP technical assistance to producers for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) Sign-Up 31 and practice implementation for General Sign-Up 29 and CCRP Sign-Up 30. Technical assistance for the CRP re-enrollment acres will begin after January 1, 2006.

#### **CRP Workload Tasks and Activities:**

According to the NRCS/FSA Reimbursable Agreement for FY 2006, NRCS will track the number and/or acres of the following CRP technical assistance tasks and activities:

- Program eligibility determinations: Determine whether the practice is needed and feasible
  for the site and it meets the purpose of CRP policy and NRCS practice standards for
  CCRP, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and Farmable Wetland
  Program (FWP) Number Only
- Conservation planning **Number and Acres**
- CRP practices and systems applied Number and Acres

For re-enrollment acres, NRCS will only provide conservation planning assistance on these reenrolled contracts and acres. Farm Service Agency (FSA) will conduct compliance checks, which includes whether the producer is controlling weeds, insects and pests, on the extended contracts and acres.

### **CRP Reporting Requirements:**

- Program eligibility determinations for CCRP, CREP and FWP: Report numbers in Performance Results System (PRS). Click on data entry, click on **Field Level Measure Continuous CRP, CREP and FWP.** Type in the number (see page 4 of this bulletin)
- Conservation plans: Report number and acres in Customer Service Toolkit. You must identify the program as CRP (*see page 4 of this bulletin*).
- Conservation practices and systems applied: Report the number and acres in Customer Service Toolkit. Remember to identify the program as CRP (*see page 4 of this bulletin*).

### **Conservation Planning:**

Develop the Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO) according to conservation planning policy and CRP program guidance found in 2-CRP, part 10 (paragraph 236, page 10-1) and Exhibit 9. Conservation practices shall follow a normal sequence of operations in the CPO: Cover Crop, Range Seeding, Wildlife Watering Facility (if requested by producer), Pest Management and Conservation Cover followed by the Mid-Contract Management practice(s) (light tillage, prescribed burning or interseeding) and Managed Haying or Grazing (if requested by the producer). The required Operation & Maintenance statement shall be included in the conservation plan. NRCS will certify (apply Certified Conservation Planner stamp) that the conservation plan meets the minimum requirements before obtaining Conservation District review and approval (*see page 5-7 of the bulletin for an example*). If current plans do not provide the applicable information, practice requirements and proper planned dates, they will need to be revised accordingly.

NRCS shall complete Form NRCS-CPA-52 and provide FSA a copy. NRCS shall obtain signatures on the conservation plan of all producers with a share greater than zero.

NRCS employees are prohibited from servicing CRP-2's on land they or their immediate family own, rent or lease. The Area Conservationist will designate another NRCS employee to service CRP-2's in this situation.

#### **AD-862's and Annual Status Reviews:**

NRCS will complete no more than 10 percent of all practice certifications on Form AD-862 for all CRP practices for which NRCS has technical responsibility, as determined by the FSA County office and in consultation with NRCS. NRCS will document all conservation practice certifications on the conservation plan in Customer Service Toolkit and report progress in PRS.

NRCS will conduct no more than 10 percent of status reviews as determined by the FSA County office. This does not mean that NRCS will stop providing technical assistance to clients for application of planned conservation practices. The 10 percent status review requirement means that NRCS will only provide FSA with a copy of status reviews on 10 percent of CRP contracts. It is still critical that NRCS provide sound technical assistance and follow-up to ensure that grass

seedings are established. Follow-up includes ensuring the application of operation and maintenance activities for pest management (weed control) and stand establishment.

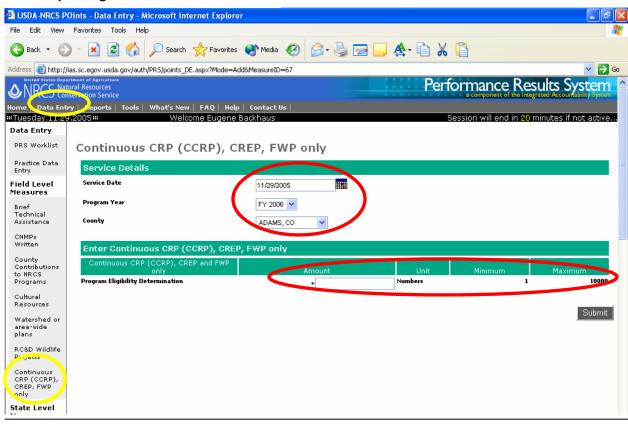
For further information contact Gene Backhaus, Resource Conservationist, at (720) 544-2868 or email <a href="mailto:eugene.backhaus@co.usda.gov">eugene.backhaus@co.usda.gov</a>.

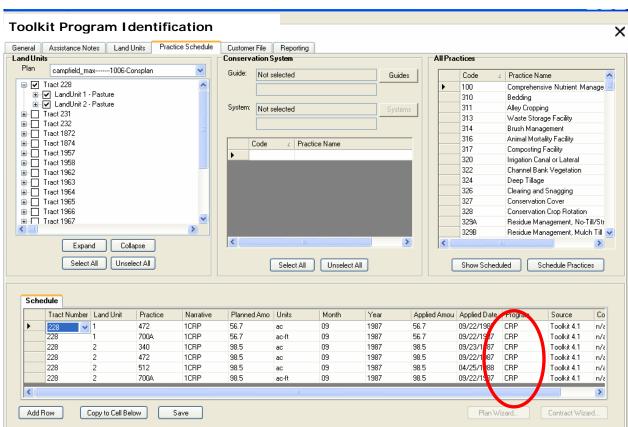
/s/ Roy Hall acting for

ALLEN GREEN State Conservationist

DIST: Area Conservationists, CO District Conservationists, CO Field office staff, CO

#### **PRS Reporting**







# **Conservation Plan**

I.M. FARMING 505 S SCHUMAKER RD BENNETT, CO 80102

### Objective(s)

To retire HEL from crop production and stay in compliance with the 1985 Food Security Act.

#### Tract: 1872

#### **Cover Crop**

The application of an approved temporary cover to protect the natural resource from erosion before and during grass establishment. Approved species for cover crop are identified on the CO-ECS-5 Grass Seeding worksheet. More information can be found in the NRCS Standards and Specifications for Cover Crop (340) of the Field Office Technical Guide and/or practice job sheet.

	Planned			Applied	
Field	Amount	Month	Year	Amount	Date
1	91.1 ac	6	2006		
2	2.3 ac	6	2006		
Total:	93.4 ac				

#### **Range Seeding**

Drilling of appropriate grass species in approved cover for the identified CRP conservation practice. The grass mix to be seeded is provided on the CO-ECS-5 Grass Seeding worksheet included. More information can be found in the NRCS Standards and Specifications for Range Seeding (550) of the Field Office Technical Guide and/or practice job sheets.

	Planned			Applied	
Field	Amount	Month	Year	Amount	Date
1	91.1 ac	11	2006		
2	2.3 ac	11	2006		
Total:	93.4 ac				

### Wildlife Watering Facility

Development, improvement, or modification of watering facilities for wildlife to create, expand, or enhance wildlife habitat. This may include a pre-fab guzzler or kit. More information can be found in the NRCS Standards and Specifications for Wildlife Watering Facility (648) of the Field Office Technical Guide and/or practice job sheets.

	Planned			Applied	
Field	Amount	Month	Year	Amount	Date
1	91.1 ac	5	2007		
2	2.3 ac	5	2007		
Total:	93.4 ac				

### **Pest Management**

The use of chemical, mechanical, or biological agents to control undesirable pests that impact vegetation establishment. Planned measures are specified on the CO-ECS-5 Grass Seeding worksheet included. Application of this practice may occur every year. More information can be found in the NRCS Standards and Specification for Pest Management (595) of the Field Office Technical Guide and/or practice job sheets.

	Planned			Applied	
Field	Amount	Month	Year	Amount	Date
1	91.1 ac	7	2007		
2	2.3 ac	7	2007		
Total:	93.4 ac				

#### **Conservation Cover**

Establishing and maintaining permanent vegetative cover to protect soil and water resources on lands requiring or needing permanent protective cover. More information can be found in the NRCS Standards and Specifications for Conservation Cover (327) of the Field Office Technical Guide and/or practice job sheets.

	Planned				Applied	
Field	Amount		Month	Year	Amount	Date
1	91.1	ac	9	2009		
2	2.3	ac	9	2009		
Total:	93.4	ac				

### **Upland Wildlife Habitat Management**

Provide areas of food, cover, nesting, loafing, resting, thermal, and/or escape cover for upland wildlife species identified in the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan. More information can be found in the NRCS Interim Specification for Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548) of the Field Office Technical Guide and/or practice job sheets.

	Planned			Applied	
Field	Amount	Month	Year	Amount	Date
1	91.1 ac	10	2012		
2	2.3 ac	10	2012		
Total:	93.4 ac				

#### **Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment - MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT**

Utilization of mechanical treatment (*light disking, chiseling, or harrowing*) on grassland to stimulate plant growth and diversity for enhanced ecological benefit. This management activity can only be applied in the 5th through 7th years based on an NRCS technical determination and FSA concurrence. More information can be found in the NRCS Interim Specification for Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548) of the Field Office Technical Guide and/or practice job sheets.

	Planned			Applied	
Field	Amount	Month	Year	Amount	Date
1	91.1 ac	10	2012		
2	2.3 ac	10	2012		
Total:	93.4 ac				

## **Operation and Maintenance**

All conservation practices installed through this contract must be maintained for the life of the practice or life of the contract, which ever is longer. Failure to maintain practices could lead to contract termination. Maintenance include pest management (weed control), grass species diversity, etc.

Planned		Contract Start		Contract End	
Field	Amount	Month	Year	Month	Year
1	91.1 ac	10	2006	9	2015
2	2.3 ac	10	2014	9	2015
Total:	93.4 ac				

CERTIFICATION OF PARTICIP	ANTS:		
MR. I.M. FARMING	Date	MRS. I.M. FARMING	Date
CERTIFICATION OF:			
Conservation Planner		Conservation District	Date
FSA County Committee	Date	Certified Planner	